Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Summer Quarterly Report 4/1-6/30

DISASTER

- <u>Council Bluffs</u>: Between 40-60 AmeriCorps State, NCCC, and VISTA members plus RSVP participants helped notify approximately 3200 residents in Council Bluffs, IA that their homes would be impacted by flooding. The national service members went door to door to alert residents.
- Sioux City: The Center for Siouxland agency in Sioux City, IA, is a Volunteer Generation Fund grantee of the ICVS' and had recently started work on developing the Siouxland Volunteer Center (SVC). The SVC was in its infancy stages when the controlled releases of water on the Missouri River began to increase and impact the Sioux City community along its river banks. The Woodbury County EOC put the newly formed SVC in charge of disaster volunteer coordination. Between May 31-June 16 the center coordinated 3,327 volunteers who provided 6,562.5 volunteer hours—a value of \$110,053.13!
- Sac, Buena Vista, and Pocahontas counties: Recent tornadoes left heavy damage to several communities in northwest Iowa. AmeriCorps members who are serving in the Iowa Campus Compact AmeriCorps program (ICAP) at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa, have volunteered with coordinating service projects in these three counties. These AmeriCorps State members have been sent mainly to farm homes, but they members have also collected clothing, blankets and monetary donations to assist with the cleanup. On the university's day of service ("Buenafication" Day,) AmeriCorps members served as site leaders and led over 100 of their peers in tornado clean up.
- Hamburg: For the first time that we are aware of, AmeriCorps members are being utilized to monitor levees. Teams of members have been sent to Hamburg to patrol the levees, watching for weak spots and performing other flood control and response activities in the town. With the National Guard stretched thin, our members are proud to be able to step in and provide assistance in a mission of such importance. See more by following this link to some local news coverage about the AmeriCorps members serving in Hamburg from the Lincoln Journal Star: http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/nebraska/article_c263bc2e-7390-5803-9b77-14bf123f1c59.html.

Service Learning

Service-Learning Gains Momentum in Iowa despite Learn & Serve Cuts

This year's federal budget debate in Congress initiated difficult cuts to national service funding. This included the loss of Learn & Serve, the branch of the Corporation for National and Community Service that provides resources, technical assistance, and training to promote service-learning to youth-serving organizations and schools around the country. Because Learn & Serve was zeroed out for the remainder of FY2011 and is unlikely to return, practitioners must become more innovative in how we continue promoting the benefits of service-learning. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (ICVS) is doing just that with several initiatives.

ICVS is a lead agency in the Iowa Coalition for the Integration of Service-Learning (ICISL), a partnership between K-12, higher education, and community-based service-learning stakeholders. ICISL is developing action plans to continue promoting service-learning across the state despite the loss of federal grant funding. For example, this summer each of the twenty-plus organizations represented on ICISL is compiling information of known service-learning projects throughout the state. ICISL will use this information to create a resource map that will give current and interested programs a valuable network for support. Additionally, ICISL will host its first "Coaching Carousel" on June 17 at 9 am. (See the "Coaching Carousel" article in this newsletter for specific details."

ICISL is developing a service-learning track for the Iowa Nonprofit Summit, to be held November 15-16 on the Iowa State University campus in Ames. Using input from our many partners, the track will likely feature sessions like how to ensure youth voice is leading projects, how to link service-learning to the Iowa Core Curriculum for K-12 educators, and making the practice sustainable in communities. Stay apprised of conference information at www.volunteeriowa.org.

While losing its Learn & Serve funding, the Iowa Department of Education has maintained its emphasis on service-learning by incorporating it into other programs, including its 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant. Iowa's 21CCLC grantees are required to use service-learning as a strategy to connect students to academic and leadership outcomes in out-of-school activities. The new grantees for 2011 include: Clinton Community School District, The Family Place (Leon), Dubuque Community School District, Starmont Community School District, Mid-Iowa Community Action (Marshalltown), and Boys & Girls Club of Blackhawk County. DOE and ICISL is providing service-learning training and technical assistance for these grantees.

ICVS is excited about several of our other ventures within the service-learning field. Check out the rest of the newsletter for more details! If you would like more information on involving your organization, youth group, or faith community in service learning, please contact Justin Villere at justin.villere@iowa.gov or Jessica Krough at jessica.krough@iowa.gov.

Statewide Service Learning Grants

In February, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced funding for six organizations to develop community-based service learning programs through our Statewide Service Learning Grants. The organizations that were selected for funding have used the spring to lay the groundwork of their proposals, and some have already started engaging students.

The YES! program based out of Graceland University is engaging youth if five southern Iowa counties (Clarke, Decatur, Lucas, Ringgold, Wayne and Union Counties) to identify needs in their own communities. They will then develop a project to address those needs, all the while learning skills like team building, civic engagement, and leadership. In its first two months, the program had already engaged nearly 50 youth in various projects.

This summer and fall, the Iowa Campus Compact Iowa's Leaders Today project will connect college students to K-12 youth to collaborate on identifying a community need, implementing action steps to meet that need, and creating a marketing campaign to raise awareness about the

community need and necessary action steps. Projects will occur in Linn County (Coe College and McKinley MS), Johnson County (University of Iowa and West HS), Dubuque County (Loras College and the Dubuque Art Center), Marion County (Central College and Madison ES), and Buena Vista County (Buena Vista University and Storm Lake MS).

The Volunteer Center of Story County (VCSC) has joined with community partners to develop a community- and school-based service-learning program. VCSC co-facilitates two community-based service-learning programs for middle and high school youth. First, VCSC works with the organization AmeZone in the Service Patch community garden, where volunteers raise produce for area food pantries. Second, this spring VCSC launched a school-based service learning project at Kate Mitchell Elementary School in Ames to increase access to healthy foods for Kate Mitchell students, to connect learning goals with hands-on service experiences, and to connect parents and neighborhood residents with the Kate Mitchell students. By the end of the year, VCSC has proposed to engage 500 youth and community volunteers in these projects.

This grant also provided service-learning mini-grants to the Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley, the Volunteer Center of Fairfield, and Wartburg College. These programs are using these funds to enhance or develop new service-learning initiatives within their programs.

Coaching Carousel for Service-Learning Leaders

As a result of the recent increase of networking among those utilizing service-learning, it has been proposed to start reoccurring conference calls as a tool to help leaders trouble-shoot specific issues and share successes.

Based off a model used by Minnesota and Iowa Campus Compact, the Iowa Coalition for the Integration of Service-Learning (ICISL) is offering these free calls to anyone with an interest in service-learning in Iowa.

The "Coaching Carousel" conference calls will consist of a small group (no more than 10) of service-learning supporters and implementers. It is open to teachers, leaders, youth participants, and partners using service-learning in any sector.

The calls will take place once a month and over the course of each hour long call, participants will have a chance to raise an issue or challenge of his/her choice and have time devoted to receiving feedback from others in the form of information based on previous experiences or ideas. It also offers time to listen closely to others and add your own ideas and suggestions to the conversation.

Participants would need to sign up in advance to be sure we maintain a reasonable number of contributors for each call in order to maximize the efficiency of the calls and allow for adequate time on each issue put forward.

The first Coaching Carousel conference call will take place on June 17th. The call will provide people a chance to share their successes and concerns about Global Youth Service Day projects and receive planning help for Summer of Service projects.

Contact Jessica Krough, ICVS AmeriCorps VISTA at jessicakrough@iowa.gov for more information.

Days of Service

Aaron Eilerts Day of Service and Giving

This Day of Service honors the memory of Aaron Eilerts, an Eagle Grove boy killed when a tornado struck his Boy Scout camp in June 2008. Highlights from this year's Aaron Eilerts Day of Service and Giving celebration include middle school students in Cedar Rapids who prepared and delivered Meals on Wheels and the Marys and Marthas group from Clarion who raised more than \$1700 for an orphanage in South Africa.

Shelter Awareness Day Projects held across Iowa (April)

Shelter Coordinators of youth and family, domestic violence, and homeless shelters across Iowa joined together to raise awareness and enlist volunteers for the 4th annual Shelter Awareness Day, held in conjunction with National Volunteer Week, April 10-16, 2011.

During National Volunteer Week, hundreds of Iowans volunteered for service projects and/or donated needed items to benefit shelters across Iowa. **All Iowans were encouraged to participate in Shelter Awareness Day activities on Saturday, April 16.** AmeriCorps volunteers, Campus Compact members, as well as other volunteer groups coordinated local projects.

For general information about Shelter Awareness Day and other state and national Days of Service, please visit our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/IowaDaysofService or contact the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service at daysofservice@iowa.gov or 1.800.308.5987.

Global Youth Service Day 2011: Iowa Report (April)

For the second consecutive year, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (ICVS) served as the Lead Agency for Global Youth Service Day in Iowa. Organized by Youth Service America, Global Youth Service Day is the only worldwide Day of Service that emphasizes the engagement of youth in all aspects of the project planning and project implementation process. GYSD also celebrates the positive impact that youth, across the world, can have in their local communities.

Throughout the weekend of April 15th-17th, more than 3,000 young people in Iowa (ages 5-25) joined youth from around the world in strengthening their communities through service or service-learning projects for the 23rd annual Global Youth Service Day. With 56 registered

Global Youth Service Day projects, Youth Service America ranked Iowa as having the 9th highest number of Global Youth Service Day projects in the nation. To view the entire report, please visit: http://bit.ly/kC82W7

To further expand the impact of Global Youth Service Day in Iowa, the ICVS utilized a \$2,500 Lead Agency grant to purchase promotional



materials for local projects. In addition, the ICVS subgranted two, \$1,000 mini-grants in support of extended service-learning projects in Iowa that included a Global Youth Service Day, Summer of Service, and 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance component.

<u>Iowa Celebrates AmeriCorps Week! (May)</u>

From May 14-21, AmeriCorps members, alumni, and supporters celebrated AmeriCorps Week, an annual commemoration of the contributions members have made in the 17 years of the program's existence. The celebration included open houses, service projects, and member socials in communities throughout Iowa. Preliminary data indicates that over 200 individuals planned or participated in service projects



alone. For example, volunteers in Des Moines collected items for food pantries and planted flowers and vegetables in community gardens; members painted ceramics for a Cedar Rapids fundraiser; members organized and chaperoned a youth dance in Sioux City; and alums and members painted bedrooms at a homeless shelter in Davenport. Members and alums also made 25 presentations about the benefits of AmeriCorps, and local alumni chapters in Davenport and Des Moines hosted social events to bring together current members and alums to network and share their experiences, including an AmeriCorps night at a Davenport River Bandits baseball game.

ICVS is proud to see so much activity and enthusiasm among Iowa's 930 current AmeriCorps members and thousands of alums. Thank you to all who organized or participated in the many AmeriCorps Week events that occurred around the state! To learn more about AmeriCorps visit http://www.americorps.gov/ or http://www.americorps.gov/ or

VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Volunteer Hall of Fame Inductees Honored

The 2011 inductees for the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame were honored during a special recognition ceremony held in conjunction with the sixth annual Volunteer Awareness Day on February 22 in the State Capitol in Des Moines.

More than 25 exhibitors participated in Volunteer Awareness Day, which is held each year to give legislators and the public an opportunity to learn more about the critical services local volunteers provide.

"Our state has long been known as a national leader in volunteerism and service," stated Bob MacKenzie, Chair of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service. "The people selected for the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame have forever changed their community, the state, the nation, or the world by going well above and beyond what's expected in their quest to help others. The commission and I appreciate their hard work and dedication and we are pleased to have this opportunity to recognize their efforts."

The 2011 Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame inductees include:

- 1. Individual Category (one person providing outstanding volunteer service to benefit others):
 - a. **Rich Eychaner** of Des Moines, who has been a leader for more than 30 years in the effort to assure non-discrimination and equal rights for all LGBT (Lesbian/Gay/Bi-Sexual/Transgender) Iowans. Through his efforts, an anti-bullying law was enacted and protection for gays and lesbians was added to the Iowa Civil Rights Code. In 2000, he established the Matthew Shepard Scholarship for openly LGBT high school seniors, which has benefited more than 100 Iowa college students.
 - b. **Thieleane S. Raecker** of Waterloo launched an innovative not for profit, Womenade, to help those with emergency needs. The money this group of volunteers raises is funneled through a unique community networking system to directly benefit those whose immediate needs are unmet at a critical time and assistance is not available elsewhere. In the past eight years, more than \$110,000 has been distributed, a few dollars at a time, to over 750 individuals each time making a significant difference in an individual's or family's life.
 - c. **Swallow Xiaozhe Yan** was selected for his international efforts to merge Asian culture with America's entrepreneurial and educational culture. As director of the Iowa Chinese Association, he volunteers countless hours to connect the two cultures and touches hundreds of lives in the process. He breaks through both language and custom barriers to assist immigrants with solutions through education, employment and diplomacy.
- 2. **National Service Category** (a new category added for 2011 to recognize individuals providing superior service during their term as a member of a formal national service program [AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, Learn & Serve] to increase the quality of life in one or more Iowa communities):
 - a. **Erin Joye Sullivan** of Iowa City began creating safe before and afterschool activities and mentoring programs as a college freshman. When she became an AmeriCorps member, she worked to expand opportunities for youth in Johnson Co. and to develop activities to cover gaps in service for low-income and at-risk youth in North Liberty. Erin's

program at "Peaceful Place" has expanded to reach hundreds of youth. Several programs she created continue to provide needed services to area kids.

- **Organization/Nonprofit Category** (not-for-profit organization providing voluntary service to others):
 - Lions Clubs of Iowa for its dedication to enhancing the early detection and treatment of vision problems in young children through screening and public education. If Iowa Lions were not addressing the need and providing a solution for the problem, it is estimated that 4 percent of Iowa children could have permanent vision loss. More than 180,000 children have been screened, and over 7,000 have required referral to an eye care professional. There are 16 statewide Lions Club vision-screening programs across the country; the Iowa program is regarded as a model.

2012 Volunteer Hall of Fame nomination packets will be available to download from www.volunteeriowa.org in early August or may be requested by e-mailing icvs@iowa.gov, or calling 515.725.3094 (toll-free: 1.800.308.5987). Submission deadline is November 1, 2011.

28th Annual Governer's Volunteer Awards Ceremonies Celebrated this Summer

More than 700 Iowa individuals and groups will_receive Governor's Volunteer Awards from Governor Terry E. Branstad and Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds during special recognition ceremonies scheduled for June 24 in Marion and Waterloo, June 30 in Pleasant Hill and July 6 in Storm Lake.

The Governor's Volunteer Awards (GVA) program was created in 1982, with inaugural awards presented in 1983. The program has grown from a small program only available to state agencies to its present function of providing all Iowa nonprofit, charitable, and government organizations with an easy and effective way to honor their volunteers with a prestigious statelevel recognition award.

Volunteers may be nominated for an award in one of several categories: Individual, Group, Length of Service, or Disaster Volunteer. More than 700 volunteers were selected for awards in 2011.

"Iowa is currently ranked second in the nation for its state volunteerism rate, which is most certainly a direct result of the devotion of Iowa's volunteers," said Governor Branstad. "I am honored to have this opportunity to personally thank this year's award recipients for donating their time and talent to help their fellow Iowans and make a tremendous difference in our state."

The annual "Volunteering in America" study, released each June, details the millions of hours that volunteers in Iowa collectively contribute. The estimated annual economic impact of that service is well over \$1 billion. The entire report can be viewed at www.volunteeringinamerica.gov.

The Governor's Volunteer Award program is coordinated by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service and the Governor's Office. For more information, visit www.volunteeriowa.org or call 515.725.3094.

A complete list of 2011 award recipients and which ceremony they have been invited to attend is available at www.volunteeriowa.org/awards. Electronic photographs will be available approximately one week following each ceremony and may be requested by sending a request that includes the individual's or group's name and which ceremony they attended to icvs@iowa.gov.

TRAINING

AmeriCorps State Training

Volunteer Reception Center Training

In late April, 28 national service members, Emergency Management, non-profit, government and faith-based representatives received a day-long training about the Volunteer Reception Center model in Davenport. This training prepared participants to operate a Volunteer Reception Center which registers and places spontaneous volunteers in times of disaster. A Volunteer Reception Center ensures that volunteers are given meaningful and constructive volunteer opportunities, while not overwhelming an affected community during the disaster response and recovery process. The training included an interactive volunteer reception center exercise where participants experienced the VRC model and practiced managing spontaneous volunteers.

Photo: L-R: AmeriCorps representatives Susannah Hall, Brandi Day, Nicole Freise, Karsten Snitker and Gaylene Gilbert discuss how national service can assist in disaster response.



Iowa National Service Leadership Institute

The 7th Annual Iowa National Service Leadership Institute (INSLI) took place from May 16 – 18 in Ogden. 50 AmeriCorps members were selected to attend this intensive retreat which included the core components of two leadership workshops (Leadership Compass and Effective Facilitation), a zip line tour and a service project that began the installation of a new trail system for the retreat site. Additionally, members could choose their remaining leadership training options by attending specialized workshops led by their peers, a poverty simulation and

reflection activities. The weather this year was perfect and members reported feeling uplifted and energized to return to their communities and finish their terms of service on a high note.

Photo: INSLI participants gather for a group photo with the picturesque Kate Shelley High Bridge in the distance.



Spring Mentoring Training

On March 29, 2011 The Iowa Mentoring Partnership's Spring Mentoring Training provided an opportunity for participants to explore how the overarching issue of poverty affects both mentees who live in poverty and mentors who work to develop relationships with these children. Facilitated by Martha McCormick (Next Step, Inc.) and Jennifer Farley (Censeo Solutions, Inc.), the first half of the training engaged participants in a full poverty simulation that featured a number of mentoring-specific components. After a brief networking lunch, participants then engaged in a poverty workshop that further explored issues related to poverty and pinpointed specific strategies for program coordinators to utilize to empower mentors to work with both mentees and family members who live in poverty.

VOLUNTEER GENERATION FUND

On March 1, eleven organizations began their work under Volunteer Generation and Statewide Service Learning grants from the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (ICVS). The Volunteer Generation Fund is a new federal grant program to support development of volunteer organizations in local communities, authorized by the 2009 Serve America Act. Volunteer Generation Fund grant funds support development and strengthening of the volunteer infrastructure in Iowa by serving as a Volunteer Connector Organization (VCO). While Iowa reached the number two spot in the nation for volunteering in 2009, this funding will help even more Iowans find opportunities to provide meaningful service in their communities.

Volunteer Generation Fund grants were offered in two categories – development funding for new Volunteer Connector Organizations and expansion funding to extend the service area or projects of current Volunteer Centers. The following organizations (service areas) are awarded funding for

development:

- Center for Siouxland (Woodbury County)
- City of Davenport (Scott County)
- Graceland University (Clarke, Decatur, Lucas, Ringgold, Union, and Wayne counties)
- United Way of Wapello County (Wapello County)
- Wartburg College (Bremer, Butler, Chickasaw, Fayette, and Floyd Counties)

The following organizations (service areas) are awarded funding for expansion:

- United Way of East Central Iowa (Benton, Cedar, Linn, and Jones counties)
- United Way of Johnson County (Johnson, Iowa and Washington counties)
- Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley (Black Hawk County)
- Volunteer Center of Fairfield (Jefferson County)

In addition to the Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF) funding, ICVS is awarding \$30,000 in funding to support Community-Based Service-Learning. Service-Learning is a structured opportunity that engages young people in their communities through service. Service-Learning engages students throughout the process, using their awareness of community issues to identify, plan and carry out service projects to solve real-life problems and then reflect on and celebrate the course of action that was undertaken. Community-Based Service-Learning programs connect the service opportunities to other learning goals, such as team-building and leadership. The Service-Learning grants are made possible through funding provided by a partnership with State Farm Insurance. Service-Learning grantees include: Graceland University, Iowa Campus Compact, Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley, Volunteer Center of Fairfield, Volunteer Center of Story County and Wartburg College.

Overall, these grantees represent an expansion from 10 to 30 counties covered by Volunteer Connector Organizations and an increase in population served from 1.1 million to 1.6 million Iowans. The grantees have committed to engaging more than 40,000 volunteers and partners in year one.

2011-2012 AmeriCorps State Funding Announced

Governor Branstad Announces AmeriCorps Grants to Engage 530 Iowans in Intensive Service to Meet Local Needs

DES MOINES (*June 14, 2011*) – Governor Terry Branstad announced today that the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (ICVS) has voted to award more than \$4.7 million in AmeriCorps State grants and education awards to support the placement of approximately 530 AmeriCorps members in community-based organizations across Iowa. ICVS also aims to fund up to another 150 members during a second round of supplemental funding potentially available this fall.

"These AmeriCorps members are stewards of our state and our country," stated Governor Branstad. "Their commitment to serve others will have a tremendous positive impact on lives and communities for years to come."

This year's AmeriCorps grant cycle was highly competitive, due to the strong and growing demand by organizations seeking AmeriCorps resources. Nationally, organizations requested nearly twice the number of grant dollars and AmeriCorps positions than could be funded.

Since 1994, more than 6,900 Iowa residents have provided more than 9 million hours of service to local communities through AmeriCorps. This federally funded national service program, administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, enables Americans of any age to serve their community, state, and country through local schools, governments, or nonprofits. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service oversees AmeriCorps and other volunteer and service programs for the state.

AmeriCorps members can serve on a full- or part-time basis. Full-time members receive a modest living allowance and all members receive an education award of up to \$5,550, which can be used for higher education tuition or loan repayment after completing a full year of service. Certain AmeriCorps grants are matched locally.

Iowa has expanded its AmeriCorps operations largely through improved performance in the National AmeriCorps State Grant Competition, in which states submit top programs to compete on a national level, as well as increased levels of local funding for programs. Each state commission also receives a population-based block grant to make additional awards. Additionally, Iowa has 240 members serving at the North Central AmeriCorps NCCC campus in Vinton, Iowa and hundreds of AmeriCorps VISTA members serving with local organizations. A total of more than 1,200 AmeriCorps members are expected to serve in Iowa in 2011-2012.

Iowans interested in serving in AmeriCorps can search positions at www.americorps.gov. The following chart details the grants made today by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service. See the attached document for brief descriptions of these programs.

2011-2012 Funding Levels

Program	Funding		Members	Education	
	Award		(Est.)	Award Value	
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Mississippi Valley	\$	130,000	14	\$	58,164.00
Boys & Girls Club of Central Iowa, Inc.	\$	216,468	25	\$	102,675.00
City of Davenport	\$	135,000	22	\$	55,500.00
City of Dubuque	\$	132,980	28	\$	55,500.00
Community Corrections Improvement Association	\$	199,140	22	\$	83,250.00

Des Moines Public Schools	\$ 105,720	24	\$ 44,400.00
Graceland University	\$ 145,612	24	\$ 61,993.50
Habitat for Humanity of Iowa, Inc.	\$ 274,576	31	\$ 127,150.50
Iowa Campus Compact	\$ 22,640	150	\$ 157,065.00
Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence	\$ 110,050	10	\$ 55,500.00
Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources - Keepers of the Land	\$ 506,727	87	\$ 255,522.00
Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources - Veterans program	\$ 290,000	20	\$ 111,000.00
iJAG (Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates)	\$ 27,000	2	\$ 11,100.00
Iowa Legal Aid	\$ 67,000	6	\$ 27,750.00
Iowa Public Health Association	\$ 67,000	5	\$ 27,750.00
Iowa State Univ. Extension	\$ 234,000	22	\$ 99,900.00
Prevent Child Abuse Iowa	\$ 127,500	10	\$ 55,500.00
United Way of East Central Iowa	\$ 133,345	10	\$ 55,500.00
Univ. of Northern Iowa (CEEE)	\$ 260,000	20	\$ 111,000.00
Totals	\$ 3,184,758	532	\$ 1,556,220

The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (ICVS) is a state entity that serves to improve lives, strengthen communities and foster civic engagement through service and learning. ICVS promotes service and develops collaborative approaches that have helped Iowa become a national leader in service and volunteerism.

AmeriCorps is a national service program administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service that engages Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service to meet critical needs. Members tutor and mentor youth, expand health services, build affordable housing, run after-school programs, support veterans, help communities respond to disasters, and recruit and train volunteers. Interested individuals can learn about available opportunities and apply online by visiting AmeriCorps.gov.